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7 Pages

April 1965

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

BAYRAM-ALI IRBM COMPLEX (INACTIVATED) USSR



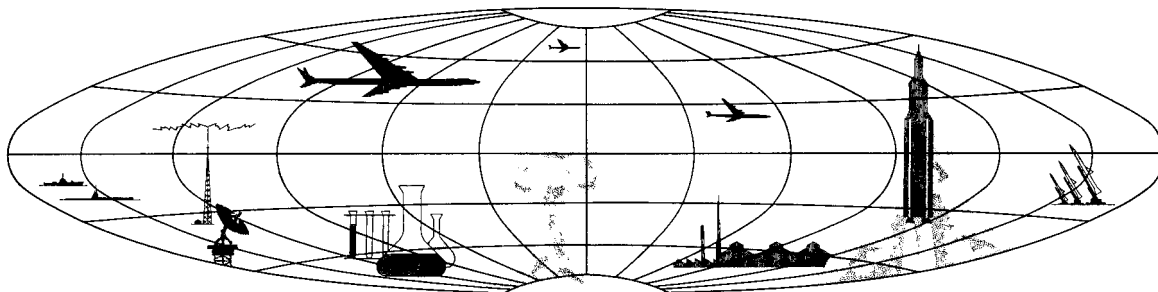
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WARNING

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Declass Review by NIMA / DoD

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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BAYRAM-ALI IRBM COMPLEX (INACTIVATED), USSR

Bayram-Ali IRBM Launch Area (Inactivated) (Former TDI name: Bayram-Ali Launch Site) -- Type III 37-46-00N 62-12-00E

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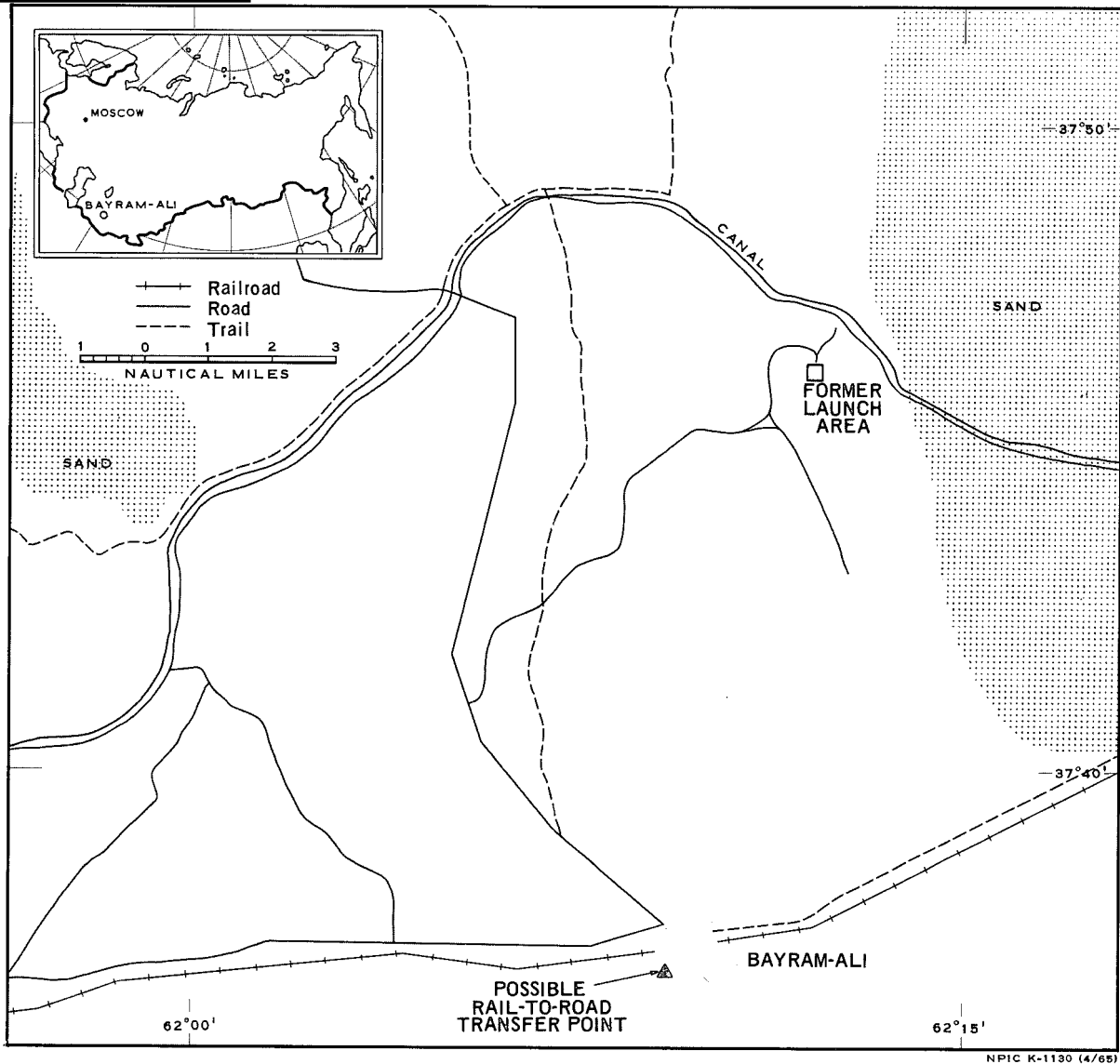


FIGURE 1. BAYRAM-ALI IRBM COMPLEX (INACTIVATED), USSR.

NPIC K-1130 (4/65)

This report, based on [] photography, updates NPIC/R-129/64, 1/ dated February 1964. It traces the history and chronological development of the Bayram-Ali IRBM Launch Area, now inactivated.

This launch site was 1 of 9 singly deployed, soft launch sites, most of which were constructed []. These 9 sites differ from other known soft launch sites in that they do not have an associated site support facility adjacent to the

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launch site. Four of the 9 launch sites are IRBM launch sites near Bayram-Ali, Ramoye, Zhuravka, and Traktovyy. The other 5 launch sites are considered to be MRBM sites and are located near Rozhdestvenka, Kraskino, Uzhgorod, Marina Gorka, and Sledyuki.

Bayram-Ali Launch Area is in an undulating, semidesert area at approximately 800 feet elevation. It is located 9 nautical miles (nm) north of Bayram-Ali and 20 nm northeast of Mary in Turkmen SSR. In addition, the launch area is 90 nm northeast of the Iranian border and is 650 nm east of Teheran (Figure 1).

The launch area was first seen [redacted] as a completed IRBM launch area. It contained a launch site with 4 pads on an inline road network, 4 ready buildings, and a receiving, inspection, and maintenance (RIM) building of the type seen at Belomorsk IRBM Launch Area. 2/ [redacted]

The launch area was next seen [redacted] at which time there was no discernible change in the facilities, nor were any equipment or vehicles visible.

When seen [redacted] possible erectors were observed on 2 of the 4 launch pads. They were each powered by a MAZ-529 prime mover, the trailer portion of which [redacted] and is similar in appearance to a flatbed/lowboy trailer and is similar to an SS-4 erector in length and width measurements (Figures 2 and 3).

A third vehicle was observed between the main access gate and the 2 large personnel buildings on the north edge of the area. The vehicle was approximately [redacted] and had the identification characteristics of a ZIL-150 truck with a canvas-covered cargo compartment (Figure 2).

When next seen [redacted] the launch area had the appearance of being dismantled and inactivated; however, the area could not be accurately evaluated because of poor-quality photography. Additional photographic coverage [redacted]

[redacted] did not offer further conclusive proof that the launch site was no longer in use.

It was [redacted] that the launch area was observed on good-quality, cloud-free photography (Figure 4) when it was actually confirmed that the launch site was no longer operational. Bulldozing has been done extensively throughout the launch area to destroy the 4 missile-ready buildings [redacted] as well as 9 of the 13 bunkers within the launch site. The 4 other bunkers have no external indications of having been destroyed; however, internal dismantling is possible. The 3 buildings at the north end of the launch site have been dismantled, as has the RIM building (Figure 5). The double security fence around the launch site, which was present [redacted] is possibly still intact. Concrete launch points measuring 20 by 20 feet are visible on 3 of the 4 launch pads.

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FIGURE 2. BAYRAM-ALI IRBM LAUNCH AREA BEFORE INACTIVATION.

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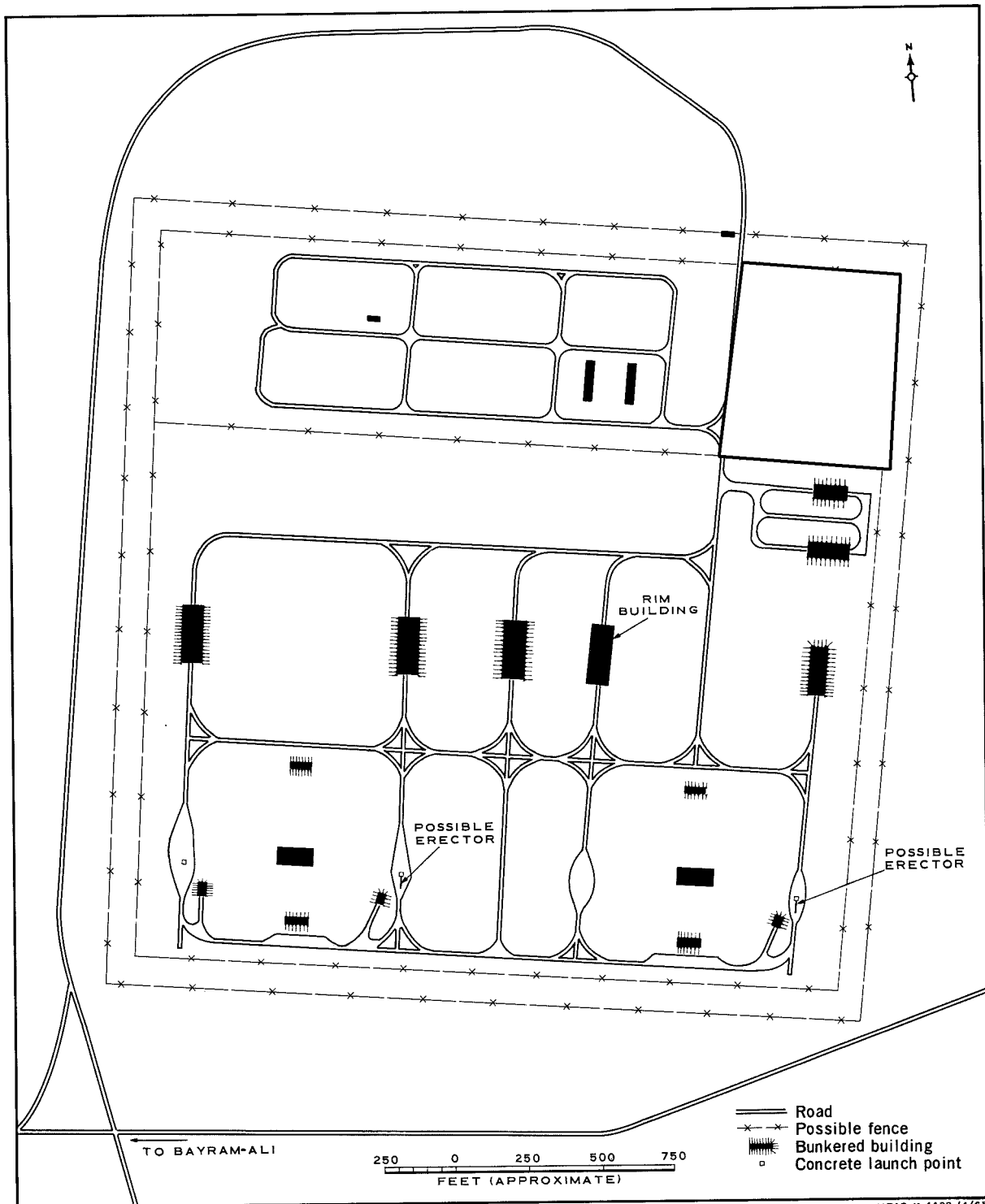
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FIGURE 3. BAYRAM-ALI IRBM LAUNCH AREA, BASED ON PHOTOGRAPHY. Note signs of activity.

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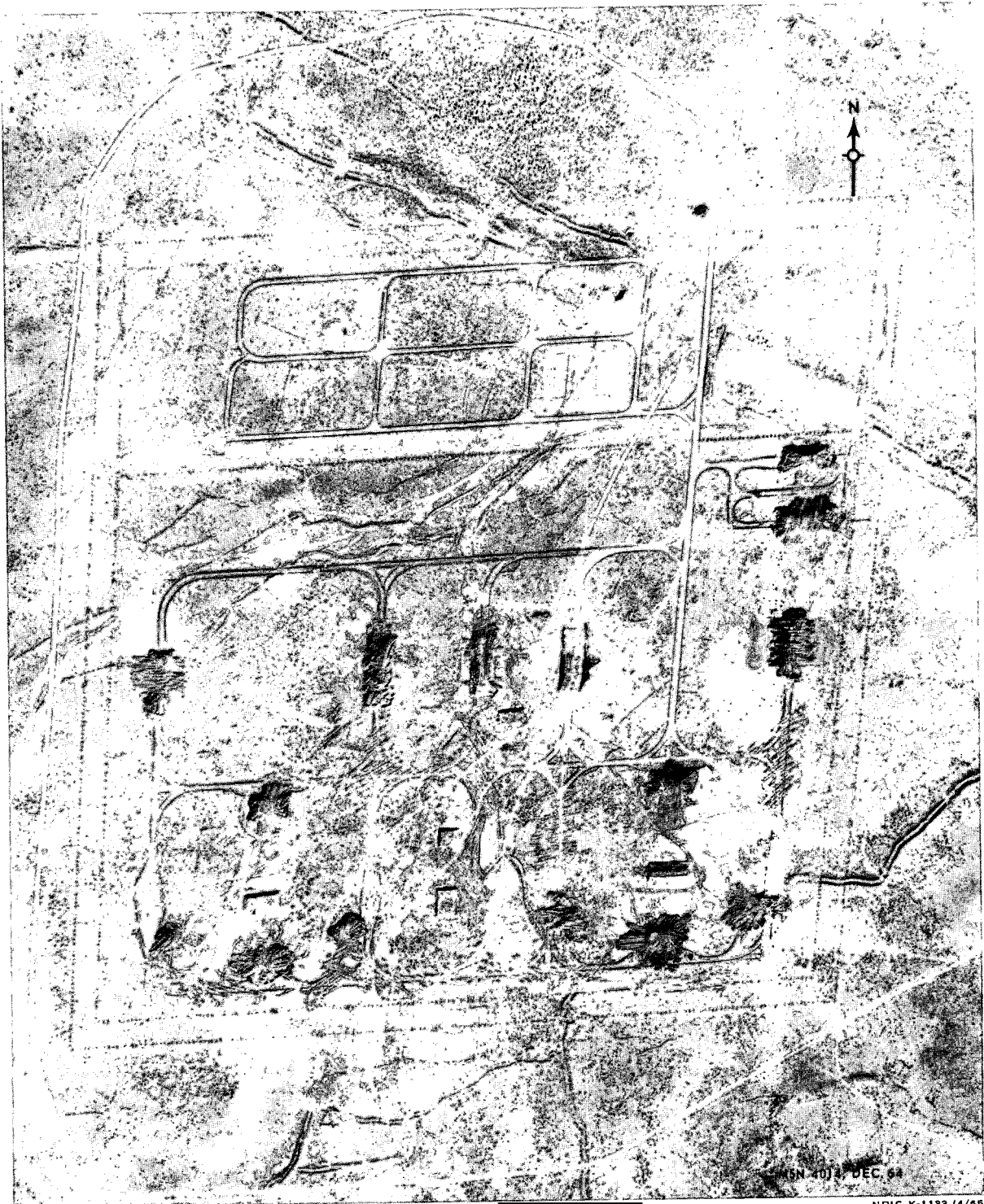


FIGURE 4. BAYRAM-ALI IRBM LAUNCH AREA [REDACTED] AFTER INACTIVATION.

NPIC K-1193 (4/65)

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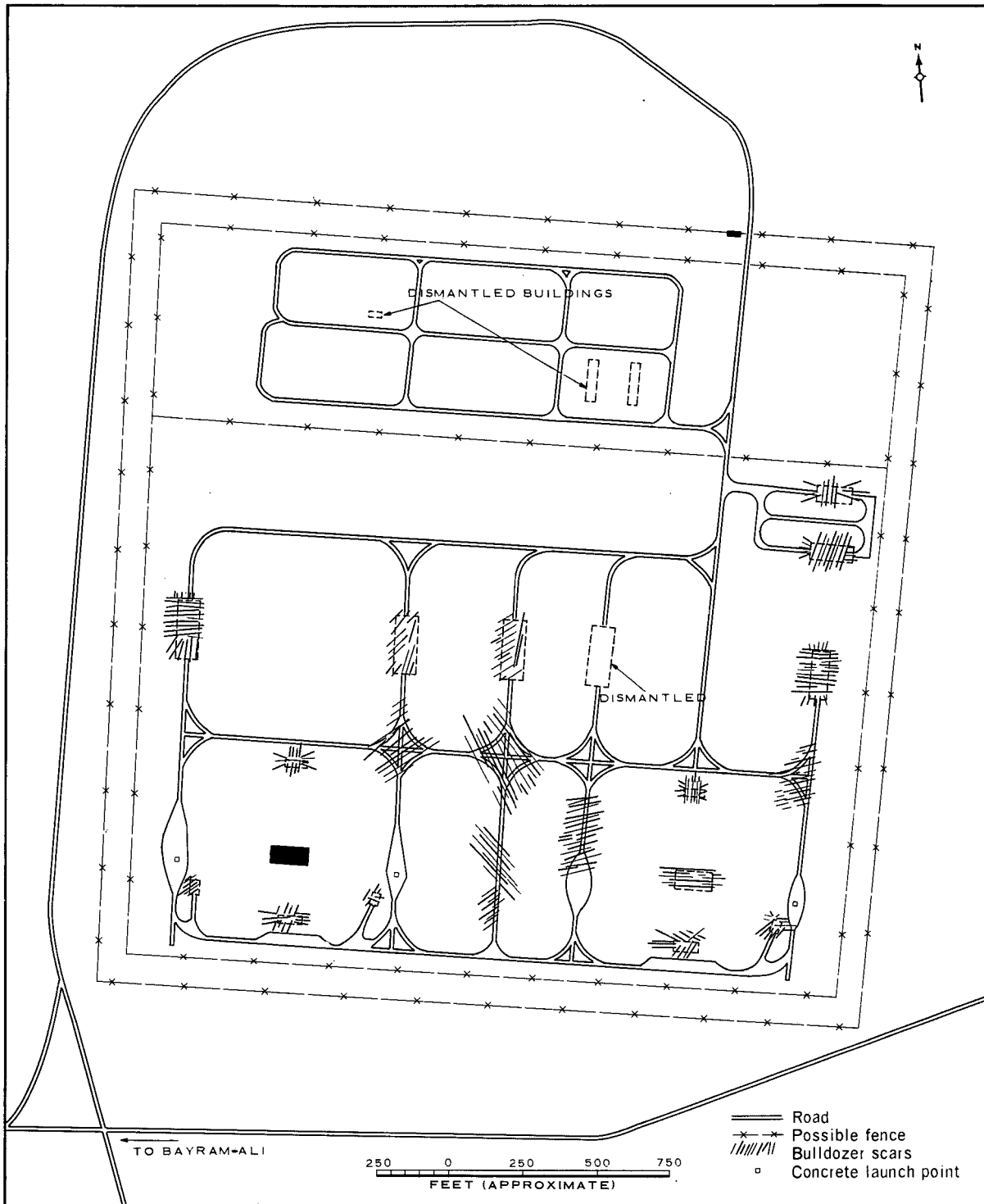


FIGURE 5. BAYRAM-ALI IRBM LAUNCH AREA, BASED ON PHOTOGRAPHY. Note destruction or removal of most of buildings and facilities.

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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

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MAPS OR CHARTS

AMS. Series M502, Sheet NJ 41-10, 1st ed, Jan 56, scale 1:250,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0337-12AL, 2d ed, Jun 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-129/64, *Bayram-Ali IRBM Complex*, Feb 64 (TOP SECRET

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2. NPIC. R-325/64, *Belomorsk IRBM Complex, USSR, Belomorsk IRBM Launch Area*, May 64 (TOP SECRET

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REQUIREMENT

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NPIC PROJECT

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